Amendments to the Claims under 37 C.F.R. § 1.121

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for isolating ~~pluripotent progenitor~~ cells having stem cell-like characteristics of SSEA-4 and Tra-1-60 marker expression from ~~a~~ human ~~mammary secretion of a male or female human body~~ milk, ~~wherein pluripotent cells are isolated directly or indirectly from colostrum, mature milk, or dry period secretion during at least one time period selected from the group consisting of a non-pregnant period, a pregnant period, a lactating period, and an involuting period,~~ wherein the ~~whole human mammary secretion~~ milk is subjected to centrifugation, wherein following centrifugation the ~~progenitor~~ cells having stem-cell like characteristics are separated from a cell pellet by suspending the cell pellet in a growth medium and immuno-isolating the ~~progenitor~~ cells having stem-cell like characteristics with magnetic beads and ~~progenitor~~ stem cell-specific antibodies.

Claim 2 (cancelled).

Claim 3 (currently amended): A method according to claim 1, wherein ~~said progenitor~~ the cells having stem-cell like characteristics are isolated from an acellular portion of the ~~mammary secretion~~ milk that is separated from a cellular portion.

Claim 4 (cancelled).

Claim 5 (currently amended): A method according to claim 1, wherein human secretory epithelial cells and leucocytes, and microorganisms are removed from the ~~mammary secretion~~ milk.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A method according to claim 1, wherein ~~progenitor~~ the cells having stem-cell like characteristics are isolated from ~~mammary secretions~~ milk isolated during lactating periods wherein said lactating periods are selected from the group consisting of the period after beginning of individual feeding, and the early lactation period.

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Claim 7 (cancelled).

Claim 8 (currently amended): A method according to claim 1, wherein in a first step cellular components are washed out of the ~~mammary secretion~~ milk and retained, in a second step said cellular components are stained with antibodies to the ~~progenitor~~ stem cell markers, and in a third step the ~~progenitor~~ cells having stem-cell like characteristics are separated from the other cells directly or indirectly by means of the attached antibodies.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A method according to claim 8, wherein the antibody-stained ~~progenitor~~ cells having stem-cell like characteristics are attached to beads and the ~~progenitor~~ cells having stem-cell like characteristics are isolated using said beads, wherein when said beads are small iron beads, said beads are isolated using a magnet, and wherein subsequently the beads or the antibodies or both are removed from the ~~progenitor~~ cells having stem-cell like characteristics.

Claim 10 (previously presented): A method according to claim 9, wherein the beads are removed using an enzyme selected from the group consisting of DNase, Proteinase, and RNase.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~progenitor~~ cells having stem-cell like characteristics are cultured without using a fibroblast feeder layer.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A method according to claim 1, wherein in

(i) a first step the ~~whole human mammary secretion~~ milk is subjected to centrifugation leaving a fat layer on top, a protein and carbohydrate rich supernatant beneath it, and at the bottom a pellet of cells;

(ii) in a second step the fat fraction and supernatant are removed;

(iii) in a third step a volume of a buffer or cell culture media is added and the cells are resuspended in the buffer or media and centrifuged as in the first step and repeating this step 3 or

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4 times, leaving a substantially pure cell pellet; and

(iv) in a fourth step separating the ~~progenitor~~ cells having stem cell-like characteristics from the cell pellet.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A method according to claim 12, wherein the ~~progenitor~~ cells having stem-cell like characteristics are separated from the cell pellet in that:

(iv-1) the cell pellet is suspended in cell culture media;

(iv-2) this suspension is incubated for 15 minutes at 4°C with ~~progenitor cell-specific or~~ stem cell-specific antibodies linked to magnetic beads via a small strand of DNA;

(iv-3) a magnet is positioned in proximity to the suspension, whereby cells having stem-cell like characteristics that have bound to the magnetic beads attract the ~~progenitor~~ cells connected with the beads to the magnet, whereas unbound cells are not attracted by the magnet and remain in the supernatant; and

(iv-4) the supernatant is removed, leaving only the ~~progenitor~~ cells having stem-cell like characteristics bound to the beads via the ~~progenitor~~ stem cell-specific ~~antibody~~ antibodies.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A method according to claim 13, wherein thereafter:

(v) ~~progenitor~~ cells having stem-cell like characteristics bound to the beads via the stem cell-specific antibodies are removed by a cleavage means, wherein when the antibody is attached to the beads via small strand of DNA, said cleavage means is a DNase,

(vi) the beads are removed by positioning the magnet to attract the beads, no longer attached to the ~~stem~~ cells having stem-cell like characteristics, to it; and

(vii) removing the supernatant containing the isolated ~~progenitor~~ cells having stem-cell like characteristics.

Claim 15 (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein the cells, following centrifugation, are incubated in a growth media that is permissive for growth of progenitor cells, stem cells or lactocyte growth.

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Claim 16 (currently amended): A method according to claim 15, wherein in

(i) a first step the unfractionated ~~human mammary secretion~~ milk is subjected to centrifugation leaving a fat layer on top, a protein and carbohydrate rich supernatant beneath it, and at the bottom a pellet of cells;

(ii) in a second step, the cell pellet is washed in cell culture media;

(iii) in a third step the cells comprising the cell pellet are plated onto a cell culture vessel in bacteriocidal, fungicidal or both bacteriocidal and fungicidal growth media and incubated for 10-30 days and thereafter,

(iv) the cells are harvested and washed using buffer or growth media, and

(v) the harvested cells are plated onto a reconstituted basement membrane preparation.

Claim 17 (previously presented): A method according to claim 16, wherein in step (v) the solubulized basement membrane preparation is extracted from EHS mouse sarcoma.

Claims 18-24 (cancelled).

Claim 25 (new): The method of claim 1, wherein the cells are isolated directly or indirectly from colostrum or mature milk.

Claim 26 (new): The method of claim 1, wherein the cells are isolated during at least one time period that is selected from the group consisting of a non-pregnant period, a pregnant period, a lactating period, and an involuting period.

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